

# True warriors in MedGp

By Col. Doug Richardson  
48th Fighter Wing commander

Say the word "combat" and images of jet fighters, soldiers and fighting usually come

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## On the cover

Photo by SSgt. Steve Ball

**A1C Johnathon Trumper, armament systems flight crew member, (left) and SSgt. Drew Page, armament systems flight weapons crew chief, perform an annual inspection on an F-15 20mm gun.**

to mind. But for each member of the Air Force, this word means something a little different. For members of the Liberty Wing's medical group, combat often means fighting for someone's life.

I recently received a letter that exemplifies the courage, dedication and devotion to duty that characterizes our combat medical corps at RAF Lakenheath. Here are parts of that letter, changed a bit to ensure privacy:

"Sir,

*Back in October of last year, I was seeing Dr. (Maj.) Mark Harber for a routine high blood pressure problem I have. He'd been after me to have my prostate checked for quite some time.*

The doctor, out of concern for his patient, ordered the man to allow a few tests. Unfortunately, a cancer was found in the man's prostate. But because of the doctor's persistence, it was found in time.

*"The bottom line is in all probability I owe my life to Maj. Harber, because I would have kept putting it off ... And later on (the cancer) would have been inoperable. I will always be deeply indebted to him."*

*"These are the true heroes," wrote the man. "Who unselfishly give of themselves so that others' suffering will be eased. When*

*others get 'down' days, these professionals are still on the job. When we who work in the flying side of the Air Force go home, these people must stay on the job, to see that we get the care we all take for granted."*

Everyday, our Liberty Wing medics are fighting skillfully in the trenches of life and death. They're not flying aircraft or guarding perimeters, but they're in real combat, often fighting for our lives and making the tough calls.

We are truly fortunate at the 48th Fighter Wing to have the caliber of medical professionals that we do. They are an integral part of the Liberty Wing team and the essence of true warriors. Long days and difficult nights never deter them from getting the job done and that's key in any combat situation. Our wing and our community are thankful.

Letters and comments such as the one I've shared here with you are a real source of inspiration. I'm proud to be in the Liberty Wing and even prouder to serve alongside the Liberty medics. With their heads held high, they can proudly say, "We are warriors." But I think the gentleman's letter said it best:

*"We have a medical facility that is staffed with totally dedicated people... They are true 'Quality Air Force.'"*

# Not only the walls have ears

By TSgt. Dennis Bird  
Information security specialist

Have you ever seen the poster reading "the walls have ears?"

I wish that's all we had to worry about. With all the technology we have today, there are numerous ways to give up our nation's secrets.

Whether it be fax machines, computers, electronic-mail or telephones, we need to think before we create, discuss or transmit classified information.

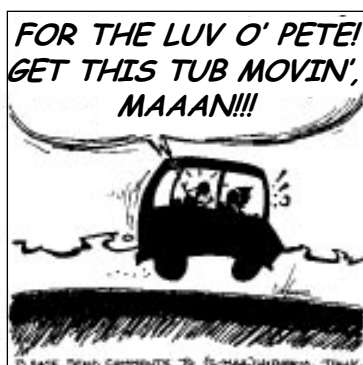
This is equally important no matter if you use classified information on a daily basis or

hardly at all. It is easy to become complacent if you often use classified information or are unsure what to do if you rarely have access to it.

The major way to prevent the loss of our nation's secrets is education. A simple briefing at a work center meeting, commander's call or asking questions if unsure can make all the difference. Remember, if unsure how to handle classified information, always ask.

People who have questions relating to classified information can call unit security managers. If they are unable to help, call the 48th Security Policy Squadron information and personnel security staff at Ext. 1420 or 3681.

## Sgt. Scratchie



By SrA. Michael Witmer